

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0616

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 0472

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS AND AMBASSADOR MAILLARD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, UY

SUBJECT: OAS CHARTER REFORM

REF: (A) STATE 027323, (B) STATE 018860, (C) STATE 022439.

1. PURSUANT AUTHORIZATION CONTAINED REFERENCE A AND GUIDANCE REFERENCES B AND C, I MET FONMINISTER BLANCO ON FEBRUARY 5 TO DISCUSS OAS REFORM. I TOLD HIM THAT THIS WAS PART OF CONSULTATION ON A SET OF US IDEAS WITH HIMSELF, AS WELL AS THE FONMINISTERS OF COSTA RICA, COLOMBIA AND BRAZIL. IT WAS OUR HOPE, I SAID, THAT DEPENDING UPON THE REACTION OF THESE FOUR, WITH WHOM WE WOULD BE INITIATING THIS DIALOGUE, THE CONSULTATION COULD SOON BE BROADENED. THE PROPOSALS PRESENTED, I SAID, WERE BASED ON A GREAT DEAL OF THOUGHT, RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS AS WELL AS ON THE SOUNDINGS RECENTLY TAKEN BY AMBASSADOR MAILLARD AND BY MR. WHITE IN SOME OF THE KEY COUNTRIES OF LA. WHILE THE IDEAS ARE SERIOUSLY PUT FORWARD, I SAID, WE WOULD BE PLEASED IF THEY STIMULATED DISCUSSION AMONG THE MINISTERS CONSULTED AND PERHAPS COUNTERPROPOSALS AND OTHER IDEAS WHICH MIGHT FORM A MORE COMPLETE PACKAGE FOR BROADER CONSULTATION. I RECALLED IN THIS REGARD AMBASSADOR MAILLARD'S STATEMENT OF INTEREST IN SUCH CONSULTATION WITH THE MINISTERS INDICATED. WHEN BLANCO ASKED IF HE WAS FREE

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TO DISCUSS THESE IDEAS WITH THE OTHERS NAMED I SAID I SAW NO REASON

WHY HE SHOULD NOT DO SO. AS THERE MIGHT BE SOME DEGREE OF SENSITIVITY AT THIS STAGE ON THE PARTY OF MINISTERS NOT CONSULTED, HOWEVER, I SUGGESTED THAT THERE SHOULD BE SOME RESERVE AS TO THE BASIS FOR THIS CONSULTATION UNTIL OTHERS ARE CONSULTED.

2. I THEN REVIEWED FOR THE MINISTER IN DETAIL THE IDEAS CONTAINED IN THE TWO REFTELS. BECAUSE OF THE COMPLICATIONS INVOLVED, I HAD ALSO PREPARED ON PIECES OF PAPER EXTRACTS AND LISTING OF THE VARIOUS IDEAS AND PROPOSALS WHICH I LEFT FOR HIM AS A BASIS OF STUDY.

3. BLANCO LISTENED MOST CAREFULLY TO MY PRESENTATION AND STUDIED THE PAPERS WHICH I HAD GIVEN HIM. HE SAID HE WOULD RESERVE ANY DETAILED COMMENT UNTIL HE HAD HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY AND CONSULT WITH HIS ADVISORS; HE DID SAY AT THE OUTSET, HOWEVER, THAT HE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE WITH THE THRUST OF THE US IDEAS AND MANY OF THE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS. OBSERVATIONS WHICH I MADE ON THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE OAS TO HEMISPHERIC PEACE, BASED ON PARA 2 OF REFTEL C WERE, BLANCO SAID, A PERFECT DESCRIPTION OF HIS OWN THOUGHTS IN THIS REGARD.

4. I WOULD EXPECT BLANCO TO INITIATE SOME CONSULTATION WITH FONMINISTER FACIO AT LEAST AND PERHAPS OTHERS, AND THEN TO GIVE US A WRITTEN EXPRESSION OF HIS VIEWS. IT IS OBVIOUS HE IS DEEPLY INTERESTED IN THIS DISCUSSION AND APPRECIATED HAVING BEEN SELECTED BY THE US AS ONE OF THOSE FOR INITIAL CONSULTATION.
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